

**Conservation
Compliance
Factsheet**

How to Maintain USDA Farm Program Eligibility

Highly Erodible Land

On highly erodible cropland, farmers must follow an approved conservation plan. Don't risk losing your eligibility for USDA programs. A conservation plan is needed for all highly erodible cropland, including any new land being brought into production. Contact the NRCS office for a determination on highly erodible lands and to get a conservation plan for your land.

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended in 1990 and 1996, requires that all persons that produce agriculture commodities must protect all cropland classified as being highly erodible from excessive erosion.

Swampbuster (Wetland Conservation)

What Farmers Need to Know About Wetlands

If you drain, clear trees, fill, or otherwise convert a wetland so that it can be cropped, you lose eligibility for USDA programs. Before you do any alteration to a wet area, including clearing trees or maintenance of existing drainage, contact NRCS for a wetland determination. Don't risk your eligibility for USDA programs.

To maintain eligibility, anyone participating in USDA farm programs, must certify that they have not produced crops on converted wetlands after December 23, 1985, and did not convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, to make agricultural production possible.

If Swampbuster is violated, USDA farm program benefits may be lost. If participants produce a crop on a converted wetland, they may lose benefits for that year, and for the years that follow until the wetland's functions and values are restored.

Swampbuster has reduced the loss of wetlands due to agricultural activities to the lowest levels on record. Swampbuster helps preserve the environmental functions and values of wetlands, including flood control, sediment control, groundwater recharge, water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, and esthetics.

For more information on Conservation Compliance, [contact your local NRCS office](#).